

EXAMINER COMMENT

1. The Administrative Requirement set forth in the Office action mailed 12/4/2009 has been withdrawn since the examiner has independently conducted a double patenting analysis of the claims in the instant application. Applicant's response to the Administrative Requirement, received as part of the response filed 2/3/2010, has not been considered by the Examiner.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. Applicant's petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.182, filed 2/22/2010, requesting withdrawal of the terminal disclaimer filed 10/14/1998, has been granted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2 and 14-16 (now renumbered 1-4) are allowed.

4. The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance appears in the Office action mailed 12/4/2009.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AARON STRANGE whose telephone number is (571)272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on 571-272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron Strange/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2448